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# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Chevron accused of 'environmental crime' in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Federal prosecutors in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday accused US oil giant Chevron and 17 executives of "environmental crime" in connection with a major spill off southeastern Brazil last November.

The country's national oil regulator estimates that 2,400 barrels of crude were spilled in the incident, which led authorities to suspend all of Chevron's drilling operations and to deny the company access to huge new offshore fields.

The US firm rejected Wednesday's charges as "outrageous and without merit" and vowed to defend itself and its employees.

The federal prosecutor's office said in a statement that it was charging "Chevron, oil drilling contractor Transocean and 17 executives with environmental crime and damage in connection with the oil spill."

George Buck, the president of Chevron's Brazil unit, and three other company officials "sought to frustrate the work of the prosecution by presenting a misleading

emergency plan," and by "altering documents shown to the authorities," it is alleged.

The oil spill "affected the entire maritime ecosystem, which could lead to the extinction of species, as well as the region's economic activities, in addition to damage caused to the state," it said, quoting prosecutor Eduardo Santos de Oliveira.

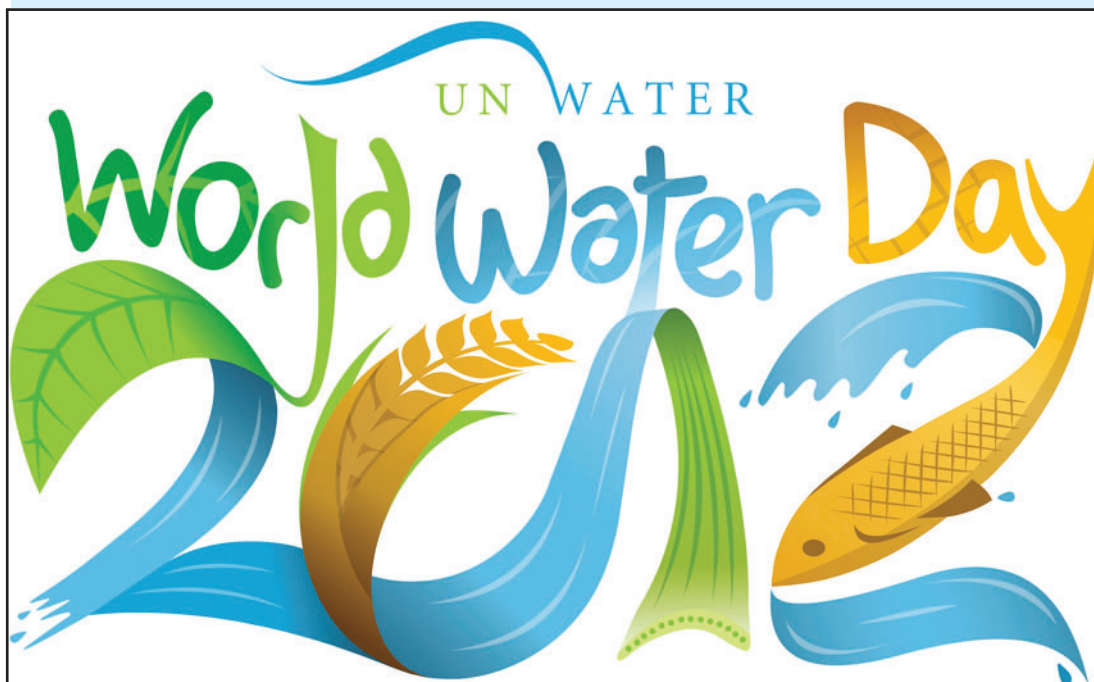
Prosecutors called for the "seizure of all assets of the accused, including 11 senior officials and employees from Chevron and five from Transocean." A judge will now decide if the executives are to face trial.

The statement called for payment of bail of \$550,000 for each person accused and \$5.5 million for each company.

"These charges are outrageous and without merit," Chevron said in a rebuttal.

"Once all the facts are fully examined, they will demonstrate that Chevron and its employees responded appropriately and responsibly to the incident. Chevron will vigorously defend the company and its employees."

## Today is World Water Day! WEB Aruba N.V. focusses on the importance of water for a little island as Aruba



Today, on World Water Day, WEB Aruba N.V. (Aruba's Water and Power Plant) is pausing a moment recognize the importance of water for our environment and for the welfare of our people. Water is so natural and necessary for everyday life, but we really do not take the time to appreciate its importance in our lives. This is most probably because we never lack water here. WEB is very proud to be able to supply Aruba with the very best quality water on a continuous basis despite all the challenges to accomplish this, according to Asja Dongen PR of our water company. This is the 19th time that World Water Day is being observed since 1993.

Every year a specific aspect of water gets special attention. The theme proclaimed by the United Nations for 2012 is "The Security of Water and Food." The purpose for this year's theme is to put the focus on the in-

creased demand for water to process food.

WEB congratulates the Aruban public, but especially those who labor in the production of water.

When we consider that it takes 7000 liters of water to produce meat to eat, we can appreciate how globally we must become more conscientious about the use of water to prevent it becoming scarce. For this reason the United

Nations is motivating countries to introduce water irrigation projects and to recycle water for agricultural use.

**Green House for Aruba:**

It has always been a challenge for agriculturists in Aruba to have enough water to cultivate produce. It is in this vein that WEB's innovative vision is to look for new techniques to offer adequate water for agriculture.

**Continue on pg 2**



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## Get ready for the Aruba Lotto Lottery Games Brand new Look!



In the upcoming months Aruba clients of our local lottery games will notice a big difference in the image of the Aruba Lotto program. The Aruba Lotto Pa Deporte Foundation has been laboring at this project for several months now, and they are now in the final phase before implementation of the changes, according to the Director Ronald van de Berg. The Lotto Pa Deporte Foundation will have their current image completely revamped and they will create a new approach for her regular existing and new clients.

In the new strategic plan for Lotto Pa Deporte, they will be dedicating much more attention to marketing, directed to re-sellers and the

general public.

Lotto Pa Deporte submitted a public tender to acquire a company to execute the promotional and publicity program for them. Six different reputable local companies were approached to offer a bid for the execution of their marketing and promotional plan. Four companies responded positively and participated actively in the public tender. After a rigorous screening process and evaluation, the Tera Group N.V. company was chosen to take on the challenge. Together with Patrick Fortin, Marketing manager, they will execute the strategic plan for Fundacion Lotto Pa Deporte in the ensuing months.

## PetroChina meeting reads positive, according to Minister de Meza



Last Monday in New Jersey the government of Aruba met with executives of the multinational PetroChina company to explore options for the Valero Aruba Refinery. Reportedly, the six hour meeting concluded on a positive note. PetroChina apparently indicated their willingness to continue talks to reach an agreement. However, they insisted that they must first review all documents and information received from Aruba. De Meza intimated that he "...has a good feeling about this particular meeting."

The government expressed that the prospects with PetroChina look good. PetroChina is in search of strategic partners. They claim that the geographic position of Aruba is excellent and Aruba's location within the vicinity of Venezuela is also a tremendous benefit.

PetroChina International Corporation Lim-

ited is a subsidiary of PetroChina Company Limited, and is fully responsible for the manage-

ment of PetroChina's importation business, its exportation and international transit commerce. Their products include petroleum crude, refined petroleum products, petrochemical products and natural gas.

PetroChina International is also in charge of the construction and operation of PetroChina's storage facilities, gas stations and transportation infrastructure. Arubans, reportedly, are not holding their breath on these indications and reports...they prefer to see the handwriting on some concrete durable agreement!

## WEB Aruba N.V. focusses on the importance of water...

Continued from pg 1

WEB has high quality waste water which they return to the ocean every day; and in view of the fact that the technology of a Green House is to make it possible to produce fruit and vegetables in a dry and hot climate, WEB has set out to explore this option.

In March 2011 WEB approached Santa Rosa with the idea to work together on setting up a Green House in the

vicinity of WEB. Keeping it in the vicinity of WEB they can supply the water at a considerably low price and so doing make such a project a very viable one. WEB is very pleased that the government approved the institution of a special commission to study and explore the idea of a Green House, and that they are lending their total support to this project.



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## Chief G. Mullen invited speaker at the "4th Caribbean Tourism Security Conference" on June 5, 6

Gregory G. Mullen was appointed Chief of Police of the Charleston Police Department on October 2, 2006, and responsible for the overall operation of the largest municipal law enforcement agency in the State of South Carolina.

A retired Air Force veteran with 22 years of combined active and reserve service began his law enforcement career in 1982 as a Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

Chief Mullen is an experienced leader with a proven record of community involvement, cultivating relationships and using teams to

create opportunities and solve problems. His focus is to establish strong community relationships throughout his city with the goal of strengthening relationships between the citizens and their police department.

He introduced the COMPSTAT program to the department, which uses GIS technology to map crime and identify problems, brings team commanders together to discuss the problems, and devise strategies to solve those problems in order to reduce crime and the fear of crime. In addition, to achieve these objectives he led the development of a robust crime analysis capability, organized



Charleston Police  
Department Chief of Police

Citizen Advisory Groups to foster better communication between the police and citizens, and launched a safety and security camera program.

He is actively engaged in developing technology capabilities that enhance the state-wide and regional ability to gather, analyze, and share information and intelligence to improve the ability to be proactive and responsive to criminal acts.

Aruba is proud to have Chief Mullen as a speaker and should really use the opportunity to learn from his experience.

**Other invited Speakers during this conference are:**

Dr. Peter Tarlow: The impact of Economic Insecurity on the Caribbean Tourism Sector

Dr. Tom Marrs: The Psychology of Gangs, Violence. Understanding them from the inside and how to deal with them.

Nathaniel Tarlow, Esq: International Hospitality Law and Tourism

Dr. Bruce Whitney: Tourism Security and Issues of Health

Brian Andrews: Dealing with Tourism Security and the Old and New Media

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Jack Ewatski: How Tobago is handling its Violence Problems.



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## Water and Food Security



**Water and Food Security is this year's Water Day's theme.**

WATER and food complement each other in supporting life on earth. Without water, food production would not be possible, putting people at risk of hunger, even death.

The planet, at present, needs to feed 7 billion people, with an additional 2 billion more expected to be spared from hunger and thirst by 2050.

With that challenge to provide food for 9 billion people, World Water Day (WWD), March 22, would be better celebrated by drawing global attention to the urgency of water and food security.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje has said the celebration would target increasing people's awareness on conservation of water resources "not only because we need water to drink, bathe in and wash our clothes

with, but also because it is an important component of the food that we eat." He added that water is "incorporated in the food supply chain, whether in irrigation and fisheries or in producing feeds for our livestock."

Unabated population growth, extensive urbanization, changing diets and development pressure on land and water (including resources allocated to biofuel production) and energy-cost increase would likely contribute to severe water scarcity, which, in turn, would jeopardize food security. Climate change would also likely affect all nations, especially those already suffering from food scarcity today.

There are simple ways you can help such as: reducing the scandalous food wastage: 30% of the food produced worldwide is never eaten and the water used to produce it is definitively lost!

## ELMAR clients receive special treat In celebration of our National Anthem and Flag Day



Last Friday, Elmar clients who went to pay their monthly bill receive a very pleasant surprise. At all three Elmar offices, Oranjestad, San Nicolas and Hato, from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon, a group of friendly Elmar associated, dressed with their Elmar-March 18 t-shirts were on hand offering clients coo-

kies and pastry.

This beautiful gesture shows the real spirit of our National Day celebration and was much appreciated by all present.

Elmar reminds all its clients of its new FREE SMS system; an effort to give a more efficient service. With this system clients will re-



ceive an SMS when a new electricity bill is available. And when the last day of payment is getting closer. Clients will also receive a SMS when Elmar has to interrupt the electricity supply.

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NV Elmar, with this pleasant event, also contributed to our National Day festivities, offering clients an unusual day when paying their monthly electricity bill.





## Dubai to build opera house, museum

DUBAI -- (AFP) Debt-laden Dubai will build an opera house and an modern art museum, the government said Wednesday, in the first such project since the Gulf emirate was hit by the global economic downturn in 2008.

The Dubai Modern Art Museum & Opera House District "aims to further strengthen UAE's emerging role as the cultural hub of the region," a statement said.

The complex is to be built near Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower, added the statement, which said design and architectural elements are now being finalised, and work will begin soon.

Dubai-based real estate giant Emaar Properties which was behind major property developments in the city, including Burj Khalifa and neighbouring Dubai Mall -- the world's most visited shopping and tourism destination marking record visitor numbers of 54 million people in 2011.

Dubai had borrowed heavily to finance its rapid economic growth, which came to a screeching halt when international finance dried up.

Estimates vary of Dubai's total debt, including that of government-linked firms, but most put the figure at more than 100 billion dollars (75.5 billion euros).

Glitzy Dubai, part of the United Arab Emirates, was buoyed by its rich partner Abu Dhabi and the federal central bank whom together pumped \$20 billion into its coffers to meet immediate debt payments in 2009.

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## Super Response from sponsors for Charity Golf Tournament Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament

The eighth edition of the Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 31. Aruba's golfers are already greatly looking forward to this annual event, which combines great wines and food with the intriguingly difficult game of golf. This year's chosen charity is CasMarie, the foundation which helps patients with dementia and their family members cope with this difficult disease for which there is no cure.

As all sponsoring moneys as well as part of the registration fees for the tournament are going straight to the charity that has been elected and because the event has a very good name in the local community, sponsors have reacted favorably to the request of organizer Arion Wine Company to support the unique happening. Sponsors are personally invited to the wel-



come cocktail reception and their logo or flag is displayed at 'their' hole or tee. Of

Golf Tournament are Home and Nature, Aruba Airport Authority, Aruba Bank,

course they are also more than welcome to attend the awards presentation. Held on Tierra del Sol's outside patio and featuring a soup buffet, this is always great fun as well.

Valued sponsors of this year's Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant

ASAP (Aruba Services Agency Partners), Riedel The Wine Glass Company, Toyota Prius, Crystal Casino, Dufry, Fatum, Friomax, ITP Caribbean, Nagico Aruba, Robertson Fire Protection, Setar, Vertegenwoordiging van Nederland in Aruba, Plus Accountants and Pro Medico.

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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## International News

### French police besiege 'Al-Qaeda' gunman who claimed killings

TOULOUSE (AFP) - French police laid siege Wednesday to an apartment block where a self-declared Al-Qaeda militant who boasted of having "brought France to its knees" with a wave of deadly attacks was holed up.

Prosecutors said suspect Mohamed Merah, a 23-year-old Frenchman of Algerian descent, had fought off several police assaults on his flat and bragged to negotiators of having been trained by Al-Qaeda on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

"He expressed no regret apart from not having had enough time to kill more victims and even boasted of having brought France to its knees," France's top anti-terror prosecutor Francois Molins told reporters.

Molins said Merah had claimed responsibility for three cold-blooded shootings over the previous 10 days in which three French paratroopers, three Jewish children and a teacher were killed, shocking the nation.

He claimed to be avenging Palestinian deaths and opposing the French military's involvement in Afghanistan and France's ban on full-face veils.

Molins said the suspect had shot and wounded two elite officers after police first raided the apartment building in the southwestern city of Toulouse before dawn.

Waziristan is a tribal area straddling the Afghan-Pakistani border which is known as a haven for Islamist insurgents -- including Al-Qaeda militants -- connected to Taliban guerrillas fighting in both countries.

Molins said the suspect had gone to the region twice and on one occasion had been arrested by Afghan police and

handed over to US army troops, who put him on a flight back to France.

"He said he does not have a suicidal spirit, he did not have a martyr's soul, he preferred to kill and remain alive," said Molins, adding that the killer had claimed to have always acted alone.

But Interior Minister Claude Gueant said the gunman had said that he received orders from Al-Qaeda for the attack.

Police and prosecutors said they had arrested Merah's mother, brother and his brother's girlfriend as part of the inquiry. Sources said the

suspect had been known to the domestic security service for some years.

Merah said he would surrender in the course of the evening but an AFP journalist reported that street lighting was switched off in the besieged neighbourhood at around 9:00 pm (2000 GMT), in a move that could be in anticipation of an assault.

President Nicolas Sarkozy, who is running for re-election in an April-May vote, told religious representatives at a meeting in a police station near the siege site that the gunman had planned to carry out another attack Wednesday.

### Asians fastest-growing race in United States, census finds

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Asians are the fastest growing race group in the United States, reflecting a surge in immigration from the entire region over a decade, the US Census Bureau said Wednesday.

As part of an ongoing analysis of the data it reaped from its 2010 census, the federal agency said those who identified themselves as Asian alone, and not mixed race, grew by 43.3 percent from a decade earlier.

That was more than four times faster than the rate of growth for the overall US population, which grew 9.7 percent in the same period to 308,745,538.

Some 14.7 million people, or 4.8 percent of the total population, identified themselves as Asian alone. Another 2.6 million, or 0.9 percent, said they were Asian in combination with another race group, most commonly white.

For statistical purposes, the United States defines an Asian as someone "having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent."

Those who identified themselves as either Asian alone or Asian mixed with another race grew by at least 30 percent in all states except Hawaii, where they already made up a majority of the population.

States with the fastest rate of Asian growth were Nevada (116 percent), Arizona (95 percent) and North Carolina (85 percent).

New York had the biggest Asian population with 1.1 million, followed by Los Angeles (484,000) and San Jose, California (327,000).

Chinese was the largest of all Asian groups (four million, including 700,000 who identified as mixed race), followed by Filipinos (3.4 million) and Asian Indians (3.2 million).

### China tells Assad to stop violence: Xinhua

BEIJING (AFP) - China on Wednesday hailed a UN statement on Syria as a positive step towards a political settlement and called on President Bashar al-Assad's government to "cease violence immediately".

China and Russia have twice used their powers as permanent Security Council members to veto resolutions on Syria, saying they were unbalanced and only sought regime change.

But following intense negotiations between the major powers, the two countries signed on to a peace plan by UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan which calls on Assad to work toward a cessation of hostilities and a democratic transition.

"We call on the international community to support the mediation efforts by Annan, and create favorable conditions for his work," Li Baodong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, told Xinhua state news agency.

"China hopes the Syrian government and the relevant parties to actively support and coordinate the good-office of Annan, cease violence immediately, reflect political will and launch political dialogue as soon as possible in order to achieve an early political settlement of the Syrian crisis."

The UN presidential state-

ment, which carries less weight than a formal resolution, gives strong backing to a six-point plan that Annan put to Assad in talks in Damascus this month and gave a veiled warning of future international action.

While supporting Annan's efforts, Li once again stressed the Chinese standpoint that there should be no foreign military intervention in Syria, saying the Syrian people must determine their own affairs.

"China respects the choice of the Syrian people, supports peaceful, just and proper settlement of the Syrian crisis through political dialogues," he said.

The UN statement called on "the Syrian government and opposition to work in good faith with the envoy towards a peaceful settlement of the Syrian crisis".

The council also expressed its "full support" for Annan's efforts to facilitate a Syrian-led transition to a "democratic, plural political system".

China has denied that its vetoes of the UN Security Council resolutions were motivated by "self-interests".

But Chinese and Russian opposition to tough action against Assad has left major powers in deadlock on ways to end the bloodshed in Syria, where the UN says well over 8,000 people have been killed in the last year.

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## International News

### US scientist gets 13 yrs on spy-for-Israel charges

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A leading US space scientist was sentenced to 13 years in prison Wednesday for selling classified material to a US undercover agent he thought was an Israeli spy, the Justice Department said.

Stewart Nozette, 54, entered a guilty plea in September as part of a deal with prosecutors that spared him a possible sentence of life in

prison. His prison term was for charges of attempted espionage, conspiracy to defraud the United States and tax evasion.

Nozette agreed to provide classified information from his top-secret work as a government scientist after meeting an undercover FBI agent who persuaded him he was an agent for Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

In a second case covered by the sentence, Nozette pleaded guilty in January 2009 to fraud and tax charges stemming from more than \$265,000 in false claims he submitted to the government.

Trained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Nozette had worked at the Pentagon, the Energy Department, the US space agency NASA and the White House Space Council before starting a technology company with government contracts and high-level security clearances.

He allegedly told the undercover agent that while he no longer held top-secret clearances, "it's all in my" head, pointing to his head, according to the Justice Department.

In addition to the prison term, US District Court Judge Paul Friedman in Washington ordered that Nozette pay more than \$217,000 in restitution to the government agencies he defrauded.

### Colombia army kills 36 leftist rebels: military

BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombian troops killed 33 FARC rebels during a gun battle in the country's Arauca province, military officials said Wednesday, calling it one of the biggest strikes in years against the leftist insurgency.

The country's defense chief Juan Carlos Pinzon told reporters that the rout of the rebels in the joint air force and army operation overnight was "without a doubt one of the hardest strikes of the past five years" against the FARC.

The operation was carried out in eastern Colombia, in the region bordering Venezuela, and occurred in the same area where over the weekend rebels with the FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) ambushed an army unit, killing 11 soldiers.

Officials added that three other rebels were killed in Arauca Tuesday in confrontations with the army and four were captured.

The violence follows FARC overtures -- thus far deemed insufficient by the government -- to make peace with Bogota.

The FARC, announced last month it would free the 10 members of the military and police forces that it still holds and would end the practice of kidnapping for ransom. The group said Wednesday those releases would begin on March 26.

The FARC has continued however to be active in clashes with army forces.

Santos has said he would open a direct dialogue with the leftist rebels only when all hostages are released and the group vows to cease "terrorist" actions. He also wants the FARC to stop recruiting children.

## Thousands join Dutch, Belgian royals to honour dead children



The rose-covered white coffins of the 15 children from Lommel's local school, and the larger brown one of their teacher "Meester Raymond".

LOMMEL (AFP) - "All Belgium is sad, as are our Dutch neighbours," said singer and TV host Bart Peeters on opening a two-and-a-half hour tribute on Wednesday, to the 28 victims of the crash, 22 of them school-children returning from a skiing holiday.

King Albert II and Queen Paola, both visibly moved by

the tragedy, joined 5,000 relatives and friends packed in a community hall in this sleepy northern town near the Dutch border, home to 17 of the dead, six of them Dutch nationals.

One by one, soldiers brought in the small rose-covered white coffins of the 15 children from Lommel's local school who died in the crash,

and the larger brown one of their teacher "Meester Raymond".

Albert II and Queen Paola, Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Maxima, as well as Belgian and Dutch premiers Elio Di Rupo and Mark Rutte, bowed their heads in silence before the coffins laid out in an arc.

Swiss President Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf too attended the ceremony alongside members of the Swiss rescue services -- the firemen, police and aid workers who spent agonising hours pulling the children from the wreckage and air-lifted them to hospital.

"The families have asked me to once again express their thanks to the Swiss rescue services as well as to the entire Swiss people who expressed their sympathy," said the mayor of Lommel, Peter Vanvelthoven, his voice breaking.

Mothers, fathers, sisters

came up to recall the good times and say goodbye, along with the wife of one of the two bus drivers killed and the son of the teacher. The headmistress spoke of the school, a teacher of the joys of the yearly holidays in the snow.

A work of art was unveiled in tribute and a local choir as well as the region's biggest pop group Clouseau brought in for the service.

The service was followed by private family burials, but most of the children and their teacher were to be buried alongside each other in the Lommel cemetery.

A separate memorial has been scheduled for today in the town of Heverlee, home to the other seven children and two adults killed in the crash.

Swiss investigators are due to travel to Belgium soon to question the children on board the coach in attempts to ascertain the cause of the accident.

Stores are open Daily 10AM - 10PM  
 Sunday 5PM - 10PM  
 Restaurants are open for breakfast,  
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## Health & Living

### Uganda's new slave trade: girls trafficked for sex

KAMPALA (AFP) - Sitting at a table in a run-down bar on the edge of Ugandan capital Kampala, Stella Kobusingye stares into the distance as she recalls the tangle of lies and deceit that led to her sex-slavery ordeal.

Struggling to support her young son and sickly mother with the income from a small shop, last year Kobusingye heard about a job opportunity earning \$800 a month working at a Ugandan-owned boutique in Malaysia.

After double- and then triple-checking that the job seemed genuine, Kobusingye sold her shop, paid for a passport and bought a visa for China, where middlemen told her she needed transit, before being handed a ticket and boarding a plane.

But when she arrived in China, she was met by a Ugandan woman, taken to a hotel where scores of other Ugandan girls were staying and told she now owed \$7,000 for the airfare.

"There were no jobs there,

they had lied to me -- the only thing they had taken me there for was prostitution," Kobusingye, who asked for her name to be changed, told AFP.

That night, a Nigerian man knocked on the door and said he had paid to have sex with her. Kept prisoner in her hotel room and with her passport taken away, for the next few weeks Kobusingye was forced -- sometimes brutally -- to sleep with up to five Nigerian men each night.

To scare her into silence, Kobusingye says her captors took her to a Ugandan witchdoctor there who used her fingernails and pubic hair to perform rituals.

Kobusingye's story is typical of a growing number of young and vulnerable Ugandan women whom officials say are being duped into travelling abroad -- particularly to countries in the Far East and Middle East -- and then forced into prostitution.

In a country with massive unemployment and few opportunities, posters in shopping

malls around Kampala advertise opportunities for well-paying jobs or studies abroad.

It is almost impossible to say how many Ugandan girls have been trafficked abroad but officials estimate in Malaysia alone -- a country with visa-free travel for Ugandans and growing economic ties -- there are currently about 600 Ugandan women in forced prostitution.

There are no figures available for the number of trafficked women in China.

During a recent visit to Kampala, Hajah Noraihan, a Malaysian working as Uganda's honorary consul in Kuala Lumpur, flicked through a series of horrifying pictures to show what happens to the girls who refuse -- the face of a young woman thrown from a third-floor balcony, the body of another brutally murdered on a bedroom floor.

While Kobusingye knows she cannot undo the past, she says she's praying those responsible are brought to justice

### US dating agencies battle sex, financial predators

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Three major US online dating agencies have pledged action to protect users from sexual predators and financial scammers, California's attorney general said yesterday.

Dating services eHarmony, Match.com and Spark Networks -- which operates websites including JDate and ChristianMingle -- said they notably look for fake profiles and check subscribers against sex offender registries.

The three have issued a joint statement of "business principles that online dating providers should follow to help protect members from identity theft, financial scams and sexual predators."

"Consumers should be able to use websites without the fear of being scammed or targeted," said the western US state's attorney general Kamala D. Harris in a statement.

"It is a priority for this office to ensure consumers are protected online, and companies who are creating in the Internet space have a continued opportunity to innovate and thrive," she added.

In 2011, 40 million Ameri-

cans used an online dating service and spent more than \$1 billion on online dating website memberships, according to the Californian official.

Of couples married in the last three years, one in six met through an online dating service and one in five have dated someone they met through an online dating site, she added.

The dating agencies stressed that they already have measures to protect their users in place, but trumpeted the joint pledge.

eHarmony CEO Jeremy Verba said: "eHarmony has the greatest concern for the safety and security of our members. These types of practices have been part of our commitment to member safety and education for many years."

"We are proud to join Attorney General Harris, Match.com and Spark Networks in setting an example for the rest of the online dating industry."

Harris added: "In the interest of protecting and educating users, I strongly encourage all online dating companies to adopt the same principles as these industry leaders."



## Sci-Tech

# A once great attraction at Spaans Lagoon drying up!



Aruba is replete with different important natural flora and fauna areas. One of these areas is the well-known Spaans Lagoon Pool (swamp). This area is recognized internationally by different international treaties and conventions. Birdlife International, for example, which is an international organization for the protection of birds, has recognized the area as an "Important Bird Area."

There is also a very important international treaty signed by Ramsar (Turkey) that recognizes Spaans Lagoon as an important wetland for Aruba. Currently, there is a rather frustrating situation taking place at the Spaans Lagoon pool which is a concern of all lovers of nature. There is an unusual dryness in the area. There are sections in the area that are completely dry and parched in the pool. Many fish have been trapped and died even before the water dried up.

This situation may have serious short term and long term consequences. The short term consequence could mean that

birds will no longer come there to find food. The birds that come there are both local birds and many who migrate from afar during specific periods of the year when they fly from South America to northern countries.

What's more, the crabs, fish and other species will not survive in the drought. On the long term, the situation will have a negative impact on our reefs. The mangroves are shelters for fish that later find their abode around the reefs on the island.

By losing the fish and even the mangroves at Spaans Lagoon, the repopulation of the reefs with fish will be seriously affected. Obviously, there are many things that could have caused this situation, but it all boils down to one central problem...the mangroves must be maintained by a steady flow of water. Observers indicate that the Spaans Lagoon bridge should be repaired to ensure that water flows to the area. It was suggested that a scientific study be conducted to determine what is the exact cause of

the drought in the area, and what should be done to correct the situation.

Concerned citizen, Donny Rasmijn, is appealing to our experts to investigate this situation the soonest possible. In addition to the problem of the lack of water in the area, the area is also suffering the impact of human abuse. One of these abuses is the trash that is illegally dumped at the site. Motor vehicles also contribute to the devastation of the area when they use the area as a type of off road race way. This puts an overwhelming amount of stress on the fauna in the area. For example, the Shoco (earl) nests are disturbed. Observers say that Aruba has a moral obligation, as well as an international obligation to protect this natural inheritance.

According to Rasmijn, maybe we should include the Spaans Lagoon pool into the law that protects the Arikok National Park and designate the area as an officially protected site.

According to Donny Rasmijn "...to designate an area as officially protected is not necessarily a solution. It is important to introduce sanctions for infringements and blatant violations. What is most needed in Aruba is the implementation of sanctions and a system of control. It is high time that we act prudently to protect our environment, our nature, for the sake of our children and for our island, Aruba."

## TONIGHT

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

# Adam Steinfeld's Comedy on the Beach

Comedy Club & Magic Theater

**LAUGH IT UP!**

Comedy Juggler

## Michael Rosman

**IF YOU GO!**

**SHOWTIME: 9PM NIGHTLY**

**STARRING: Michael Rosman**

**WHAT: Amazing Feats of Comedy & Magic**

**Special opening act, at the Magic Live Show**

**LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba**

**BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM**

**COST: \$40 adult / Locals: Afl. 40 / (under 15) \$20**

**TICKETS: at the theater door**

**GROUP SALES: (297) 561-1090**

**ComedyOnTheBeach.com**

**WestinAruba.com/magic**

## Consumer watchdog warns iPads hot to handle



(AFP) - A vaunted consumer watchdog organization on Tuesday warned that Apple's new iPad is a bit hot to handle.

US nonprofit product testing group Consumer Reports reported that the new-generation iPad with its more powerful processor hit temperatures as high as 116 degrees Fahrenheit, particularly when running videogames.

"People need to exercise caution," he continued. "We are not saying it is a dangerous product, but 116 degrees can be a little uncomfortable." Consumer Reports spokesman James McQueen said of the third-generation iPad.

Consumer reports said the new iPad got about 12 degrees warmer than the iPad 2 tablet while performing the same intensive tasks, such as videogames or downloading large files.

One rear corner of the new iPad appeared to be a hot spot.

Apple did not respond to AFP requests for comment, but prior to the release of the Consumer Reports thermal analysis issued a public statement saying that the new iPad operates "well within our ther-

mal specifications."

Operating temperatures of the latest iPads were hot topics among Apple gadget owners at online forums.

California-based Apple announced on Monday that it sold three million of its new iPad tablet computers over the course of its first weekend on the market.

The new iPad went on sale on Friday with Apple fans lining up from Sydney to San Francisco to snap up the latest model of the hot-selling tablet computer.

The new iPad is available in Australia, the United States, France, Canada, Germany, Japan, Singapore, Switzerland, Britain and Hong Kong. It will go on sale in another two dozen countries on March 23.



**Lunch Buffet**  
Saturday - Sunday  
12:00 - 3 p.m.

**Dinner**  
Monday - Sunday  
6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Palm Beach Center - Palm Beach Aruba - Tel: 5860944



## COMICS

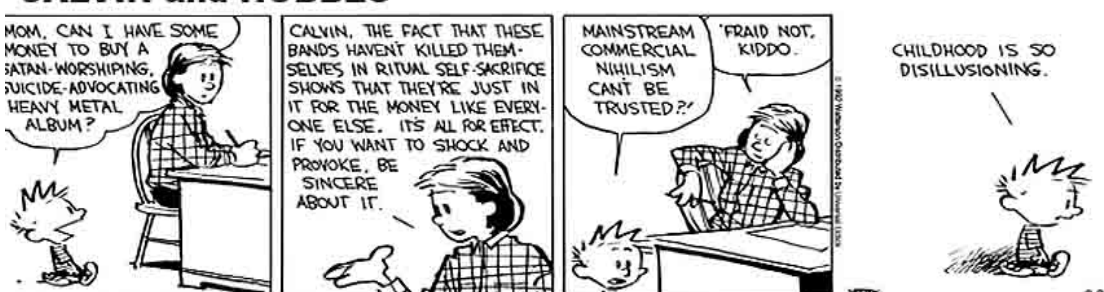
## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

FREE Coverage on our website:

www.themorningnewsaruba.com

## ACROSS

1. Weekend-lover's letters
5. Writer Ferber
9. Biography, for short
12. Strop
13. Winter flurries
14. Shad product
15. Baseball great Berra
16. Lover
18. Patton's rank (abbr.)
20. Breathing need
21. Monk's intonation
24. Layers
28. Tennis hit
29. Trims
33. Barely passing grade
34. Turkish title
35. Motorists' group (abbr.)
36. Woman, informally
37. Gnawing rodent
38. Primetime awards
40. Building addition
41. Mix dough
43. Provisions of a contract
45. Nero's 54
47. Abbr. on a home page
48. Innovative
52. \_\_\_-daisy
56. Noncommercial TV letters
57. Inheritor
58. Dr. Franken-

stein's helper

59. Fleur-de-\_\_\_

60. Ugly

duckling, eventually

61. Kitchen needs

## DOWN

1. "Love \_\_\_ neighbor"
2. Baby's sound
3. Verb ending
4. Make believe
5. "Sports-Center" channel
6. Heredity inits.
7. Nick Charles's wife
8. Expects

9. JFK, to RFK

10. Debt memo

11. Over, in verse

17. Modern diagnostic test (abbr.)

19. List abbr.

21. \_\_\_ Kent (Superman's alias)

22. Actor Paul

23. Slacken

25. Lawn tool

26. Royal domain

27. Wholesales

30. Thrash

31. "\_\_\_ Woman" (2 wds.)

32. Earnings

38. Bunker and Piaf

39. Train terminal (abbr.)

42. \_\_\_ carte (2 wds.)

44. Furnish, as tools

46. Opinion

47. "Charlotte's Web" girl

48. Military rank (abbr.)

49. Stat for Sosa

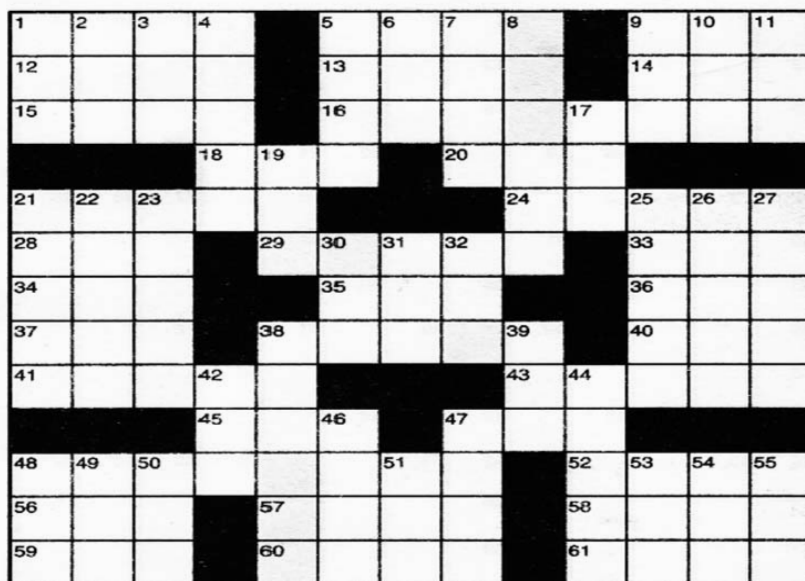
50. 19th letter

51. By way of

53. Phil Mickelson's gp.

54. Henry VIII's desire

55. Parts of centuries (abbr.)



# BOTICA

## DRUG STORES OPEN AFTER HOURS

MARCH 17 - MARCH 24

O'stad : ' Botica del Pueblo.' - S.N : ' ALOE N.V.'

Center for Hemodialysis  
Posada Clinic Aruba  
Tel. 580-2840/Pager 127-2446

## INFORMATION

Telephone 118

## Twelve Step Meetings

24 hours helpline 583-8989

## Fellowship Clinic S.N.

Free treatment of  
Alcoholism  
and Drug Addiction  
Anonymity guaranteed  
Tel. 584-5440

## SOS TELEAYUDO SOS

Telephone Helpline

583-1190

Mon.-Thu. 9 p.m.-12 midn.

Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

## CAS MARIE

Alzheimer's Day

Care Center

Tel: 5696910

Important  
Telephone  
Numbers

## HOSPITAL

Horacio Oduber Hospital

Tel. 5274000

## EMERGENCY

Telephone 911

## POLICE HDQS

Telephone 100

## TAXI

C.V. TAS

587-1998, 587-5900

In Oranjestad:

Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604

582-5447

In San Nicolas

Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602

professional taxi services

Tel. 588-0035

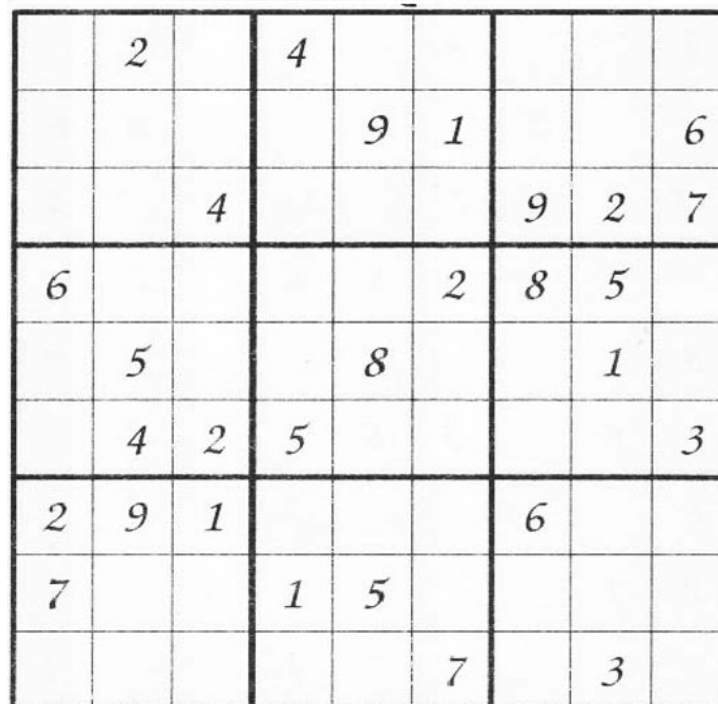
## Al Anon Meetings

Mondays 6-7pm

Sabana Liber 8 in Noord

Tel: 5673356 / 5838989

## Sudoku



## SOLUTION


8	5	1	2	7	6	5	9	4
2	6	4	9	5	1	8	3	7
5	3	9	8	4	7	1	6	2
6	1	7	4	8	9	2	5	3
4	2	6	5	9	8	7	1	3
7	8	3	1	6	2	4	9	5
1	8	5	6	4	9	2	7	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





**Office Systems Aruba**


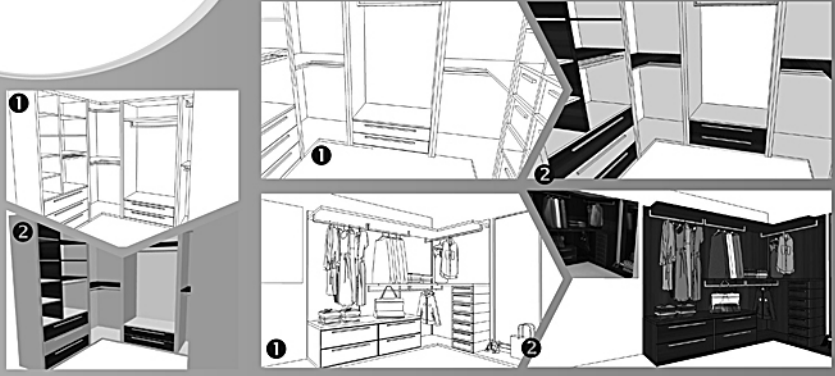
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## Finance

### EU bids to open market access in emerging nations

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Union unveiled proposals Wednesday aimed at forcing emerging powers such as China to offer European firms access to lucrative government contracts.

After repeatedly complaining about Chinese restrictions, the European Commission proposed measures to allow the 27-nation bloc to bar foreign firms from winning government contracts if their countries block European companies.

"We are simply asking them to open their markets for our products just as we have been doing for theirs," EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht told a news conference. "It's about fundamental fairness."

The proposals, which he described as a "carrot and stick" approach, are aimed at compelling nations to enter negotiations but he dismissed fears that it could lead to counter-measures.

"I don't believe this will result in retaliation," De Gucht said.

With EU firms also facing restrictions in India, Brazil and Russia, EU Internal Market Commissioner Michel Barnier said Europe loses out on 12 billion euros (\$15.8 billion) per year worth of government contracts in third

nations.

"We see that our trade partners apply a number of protectionist measures and restrictions in their public markets. It's true for the United States, Japan and emerging nations," Barnier said.

While 85 percent, or 352 billion euros worth, of the EU's public procurement market is open, the United States offers foreign bidders only 178 billion euros in contracts and Japan offers 27 billion euros, according to the commission.

European companies are generally blocked from contracts related to construction, rail equipment, urban buses and energy production, he said, adding that "this creates competition problems in these sectors."

One of the measures proposed by Brussels would allow a government entity such as a municipality to ask the commission to bar a protectionist country's companies from bidding on contracts of more than five million euros.

The second measure would restrict public procurement access to a third country that repeatedly discriminates against EU companies and refuses to negotiate to address the imbalances.

a research note.

"Unlike 2008, however, warehouses are currently amply stocked. Whether the oil price will fall towards the \$100 a barrel mark, as Saudi Arabia hopes, will depend mainly on whether the words are followed by actions."

### Colombia ex-official in running to head World Bank

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Colombian ex-finance minister Jose Antonio Ocampo declared Wednesday that he is a candidate to lead the World Bank.

Ocampo confirmed reports that he and Nigerian Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala were in the running, saying in an email to AFP: "Confirmed. It is the Nigerian minister and I."

Okonjo-Iweala's spokesman denied that she is pursuing the World Bank's top job, but left the door open to the idea that she may be nominated.

Nominations are due Friday at the World Bank for candidates to succeed World Bank president Robert Zoellick, who is stepping down at the end of his term in June.

The United States, the biggest shareholder in the World Bank and its sister institution the International Monetary Fund, has not yet announced its candidate to lead the 187-nation development lender.

Under a tacit agreement since the Bretton Woods in-

stitutions were founded nearly 70 years ago, the United States has always put an American at the helm of the World Bank and Europe has picked a European to lead the IMF.

The arrangement has provoked howls in recent year

from emerging and developing economies that are seeking greater representation at the two bodies.

Until Wednesday, only American economist Jeffrey Sachs had declared himself a candidate to head the World Bank.

### Oil prices rebound after US stockpiles fall

NEW YORK (AFP) - World oil prices rebounded Wednesday after the US government reported a surprise drop in US crude oil stockpiles, suggesting demand in the world's biggest oil-consuming country.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate crude for May, finished at \$107.27 a barrel.

The previous benchmark futures contract, WTI for April, had shed \$2.48 to close at \$105.61 a barrel on Tuesday.

In London, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in May edged up eight cents to settle at \$124.20 a barrel.

The US Department of Energy in its weekly energy report said crude oil stockpiles

fell sharply last week, after four straight weeks of gains.

The DoE reported a decline of 1.2 million barrels in the week ended March 16. The consensus forecast reported by Dow Jones Newswires was for stockpiles to rise by 2.4 million barrels.

The DoE also announced a smaller-than-expected decline in gasoline stocks, and a surprise rise in distillates, including diesel and heating fuel.

Crude futures had fallen sharply on Tuesday after Saudi Arabia repeated its pledge to make up for lost Iranian output, easing supply concerns.

"Saudi Arabia clearly fears a scenario like in 2008, when the oil price climbed to nearly \$150 a barrel by mid-year, causing the global economy to slide into recession and forcing the price down to \$30 a barrel within a matter of months," Commerzbank analysts said in

### HP merges computer and printer units

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Hewlett-Packard on Tuesday said that it is combining its computer and printer units to free up more cash for innovation in the rapidly evolving technology market.

The merging of the units comes as growth in the printer market, once a gold mine for the company, slows to a trickle and people increasingly turn to smart-phones and tablets for their Internet needs.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

RBIS TELE TIM  
ALOT HEAL AVA  
TOUR ELMS JET  
ABSORB BALM  
LEAF SEALS  
TRALALA WHAT  
BAN PLUSH AKA  
SKEW SMALLER  
PECAN TERI  
DRUM LESSEN  
ADO DUEL POGO  
LIT ELKE EDGE  
FIF SEED RAYS

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of 3/21/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.780	1.800	1.820
Britain	GBP	2.760	2.810	2.870
Switzerland	CHF	1.9520	1.9592	1.9672
Netherlands	EUR	2.3341	2.3554	2.3791
Sweden	SEK	0.2542	0.2614	0.2694
Denmark	DKK	0.3072	0.3144	0.3224
Norway	NOK	0.2999	0.3071	0.3151
Japan	JPY	210.07	211.99	214.12
(per 10,000)				





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Palm Beach  
Plaza**

**We kindly ask our  
clients to keep  
pending for  
Opening Day at our  
new location**

## Queen renews vow of service as UK parliament pays tribute



**LONDON: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II sits before delivering a speech in response to Loyal Addresses given to the queen by both Houses of Parliament to mark her Diamond Jubilee at Westminster Hall in London on March 20, 2012. Queen Elizabeth II reaffirmed her dedication to serve in a speech to British lawmakers, as they presented her with a stained glass window to mark her 60 years on the throne.**

AFP PHOTO

## US granny, 101, paraglides into record books

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A great great grandmother from the US state of Utah has leapt into the record books by taking a paragliding flight to celebrate her 101st birthday.

Mary Allen Hardison was recognized by the Guinness Book of Records on Tuesday for the feat, undertaken after her 75-year-old son Allen went paragliding and she decided not to be beaten.

Four generations of her family -- from children to great great grandchildren -- were on hand to watch her take off, rigged up in tandem with a qualified instructor, on September 1 last year.

"I feel very humble in setting a new Guinness World Record. My desire is for the elderly to keep on going, do things as long as you are physically able. Be positive," she said in comments cited by Guinness.

"Friends don't like a grumpy

person," she added. Explaining her motive more simply, she told local TV station KSL 5: "I don't want my son to do something that I can't."

Instructor Kevin Hintze described Hardison as "hardcore" after she encouraged him to have them loop and spin together, hundreds of feet up in the air near her home in Ogden, Utah.

Hardison, who says her more usual hobbies include knitting, said more elderly people should push themselves to keep having fun.

"When a person is busy, the hurts seem to ease up. If you are able and even older than I, then I'm happy for people to attempt to break my record. I promise the experience will be well worth it!"

Asked how she felt just after landing gently back on the ground, she told KSL 5: "How was it? I'm ready to go again!"



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Close to the traffic lights  
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EXCELLENT SERVICE, A  
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LIQUORS AND WINES  
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## Kony filmmaker recovering from 'reactive psychosis'

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The co-founder of an online campaign to find Ugandan war criminal Joseph Kony will remain in hospital for several weeks after being found parading naked in the street, his family said Wednesday.

Jason Russell, who made a 30-minute film that went viral worldwide, suffered a "reactive psychosis" that led to an incident last week in which he was spotted screaming at cars, thumping the sidewalk and masturbating.

The 33-year-old was suffering from exhaustion and stress brought on by the massive attention garnered by the online video, which was viewed by tens of millions of people within a few days earlier this month.

"Jason's incident was in no way the result of drugs or alcohol in his body," his wife Danica Russell said in a statement released by the publicist for the group Invisible Children, which organized the campaign.

"The preliminary diagnosis he received is called brief reactive psychosis, an acute state brought on by extreme exhaustion, stress and dehydration," she added.

Russell, 33, was taken to hospital last Thursday after being spotted by passers-by "running in the street, interfer-

ing with traffic, screaming; one person said that he was naked and masturbating," a police spokeswoman said.

Some witnesses said he was "interfering with traffic, banging on the sidewalk that sort of thing. We have reports of being in various states of undress, and neighbors in the area were concerned about him," she added.

The TMZ celebrity news website posted two videos of the incident, showing Russell pounding his fists in anger and

screaming maniacally.

His wife said doctors have told the family that the incident "is a common experience given the great mental, emotional and physical shock his body has gone through in these last two weeks."

Nearly 85 million people have so far watched the YouTube video, which seeks to focus attention on tracking down Kony, the fugitive head of the Lord's Resistance Army rebel group.



**HOLLYWOOD - Rich Ross (L), President of Walt Disney Studios, holds a plaque honouring the Muppets at the unveiling of their Star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame in front of the El Capitan Theater in Hollywood on March 20, 2012 in California. Since "The Muppet Show" began in 1976, they have been embraced by audiences worldwide and several Muppets were on hand for the ceremony including Kermit the frog, Miss Piggy, Fozzie, Gonzo, Animal, Pepe, Sweetums and the newest Muppet, Walter.**

AFP PHOTO



## Cool Casino where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early

morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.



Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand such table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly blackjack tournament will

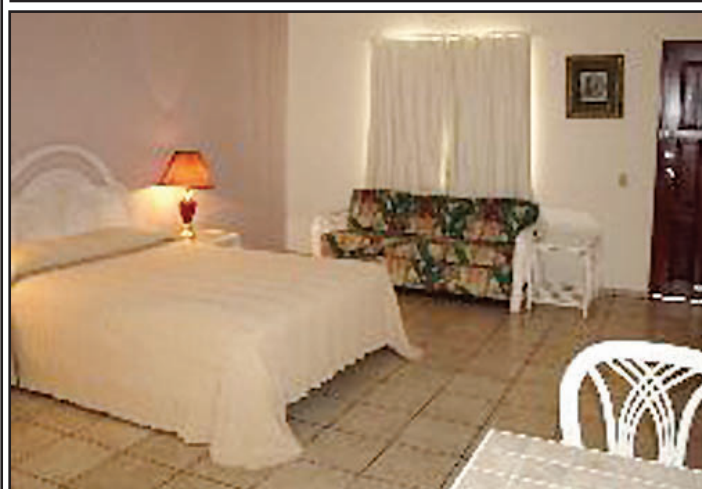
keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



## Enjoy and relax at Quality Apartments

Where service is with a smile



Aruba is one of the most beautiful islands in the Caribbean, having long stretches of sugar white beaches, where you can take long peaceful walks or dive in the cleanest of waters found in the world.

And Quality Apartments is situated within walking distance from these beaches. Wow!!!

The apartments are conveniently located less than one mile from Aruba's most beautiful beaches, like Manchebo Beach and Eagle Beach; near to the hotels and fantastic restaurants.

Quality Apartments is also located only 1 mile from Aruba's greatest casinos, four large supermarkets, bank, car rentals, motorcycle rentals, excellent nightclubs and bowling club.

It has 43 comfortable studio-apartments (max. 3 persons) and 17 luxurious apartments (max. 4 persons) with a loft.

These fabulous loft apartments are more spacious, with the sleeping area upstairs on the loft. All apart-

ments are completely furnished with cable TV. The open kitchen is very spacious and equipped with stove top, refrigerator, toaster/oven and coffee maker (microwave optional). The apartments are air-conditioned, with daily maid service, private parking and a mini market.

The laundry is accessible to all guests 24 hours a day. There is a large fresh water swimming pool, with a pool deck and beach chairs, where you can relax any time of the day. At the reception, the friendly staff is always ready to attend you with a smile.

Quality Apartments is situated at the Schotlandstraat 70 in Oranjestad. For reservations or information readers may call at tel: (297)-582-0697 or (297)-583-7484, Fax: (297)-583-5203. Office hours are Monday thru Friday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

E-mail: [quality@setarnet.aw](mailto:quality@setarnet.aw), Website: <http://arubaqualityapartments.com>



## SPORTS

# Muamba 'effectively dead' for 78 minutes - doctor



LONDON (AFP) - Bolton footballer Fabrice Muamba's ongoing recovery from a cardiac arrest was labelled "miraculous" on Wednesday, as the doctors who battled to save his life revealed he was "effectively dead" for more than an hour.

Muamba collapsed towards the end of the first half of Bolton's FA Cup quarter-final against Tottenham at White Hart Lane last Saturday.

The match was abandoned soon afterwards and 23-year-old Muamba, who received treatment on the field, was taken to the nearby London Chest Hospital, where he has remained ever since.

Although the midfielder was now making encouraging progress, Bolton team doctor Jonathan Tobin said the player's heart had stopped

working for 48 minutes before his arrival in hospital and for half an hour afterwards.

"In effect he was dead in that time," Tobin said. "Fabrice was in a type of cardiac arrest where the heart is showing lots of electrical activity but no muscular activity."

"It's something that often responds to drugs and shocks."

"Now heaven knows why, but Fabrice had, in total, 15 shocks. He had a further 12 shocks in the ambulance."

Tobin, who visited Muamba in hospital on Tuesday, said the player told him he felt "fine".

"I'm glad to say that the early signs of recovery have

continued," Tobin said. "I went to see Fabrice last night. I went in and he said 'Hi, doc.'"

"I asked him how he was and he said, 'fine'."

Tobin added Muamba had asked him what had happened to him.

"I explained to him what had happened," Tobin said. "That's the sort of level of communication I have had with Fabrice."

Former England Under-21 international Muamba was born in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo but came to Britain at the age of 11.

As players from around the world urged fans to "pray for Muamba" and supporters bombarded social networking site Twitter with well-wishes for the stricken player, Wanderers postponed their scheduled league fixture against Aston Villa on Tuesday.

But with Muamba now breathing independently and speaking to visitors at his hospital bed, Bolton said their Premier League match at home to Lancashire rivals Blackburn Rovers would go ahead as scheduled at the Reebok Stadium on Saturday.

## Tennis: Williams, Clijsters make triumphant returns

MIAMI (AFP) - Former world number ones Venus Williams and Kim Clijsters made triumphant returns to the WTA after long layoffs with victories on Wednesday at the WTA and ATP Miami hardcourt tournament.

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams, who has not played a WTA event since pulling out of last year's US Open, defeated Japan's Kimiko Date-Krumm 6-0, 6-3 in 77 minutes.

Williams announced at last year's US Open she had been diagnosed with the autoimmune disorder Sjogren Syndrome. The illness saps her energy and causes pain in her joints.

Clijsters, playing for the first time since her Australian Open semi-final loss to Victoria Azarenka, rallied to eliminate Australia's Jarmila Gajdosova 4-6, 6-1, 6-0.

Clijsters, who won at Miami in 2005 and 2010, skipped last week's Indian Wells tournament to rest her

injured ankle.

Williams advanced to a second-round match against Czech third seed Petra Kvitová, who had a first-round bye, while next up for Clijsters is Germany's 14th-seeded Julia Goerges.

First round matches began in the men's draw with Russian Nikolay Davydenko outlasting American James Blake 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, to book a second-round date with US 10th seed John Isner, the runner-up to Roger Federer last week at Indian Wells.

Colombia's Alejandro Falla 6-1, 2-1 when Uzbek Denis Istomin retired with an injury, advancing the South American into a second-round match with British fourth seed Andy Murray.

Chile's Fernando Gonzalez was set to open his farewell event against Frenchman Nicolas Mahut on Wednesday night. Gonzalez, a three-time Olympic medalist, announced his decision to retire last month after this event.



## Taj Mahal

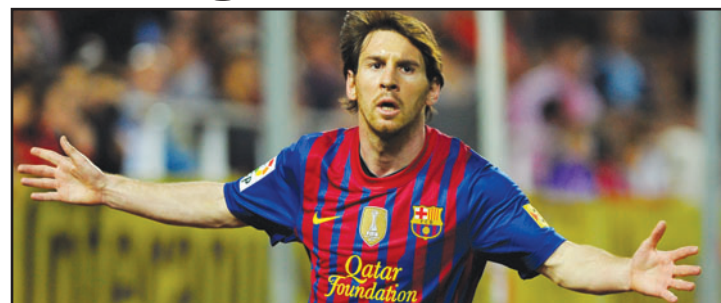
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## Football: Messi hailed as 'living legend' after goal record



MADRID (AFP) - Spanish and Argentinian media hailed Barcelona's Lionel Messi on Wednesday as "a living legend" and "eternal" after the striker became the club's highest goalscorer of all time.

"Messi rewrites history," daily newspaper La Vanguardia wrote on its front page below a picture of a smiling Messi celebrating one of his three goals during Barcelona's 5-3 win over Granada Tuesday in a Spanish league match.

"Historical!" said Barcelona-based sports daily Mundo Deportivo on its front page above a photo of the 24-year-old with both arms raised in the air with clenched fists.

Messi's hat-trick took his tally to 234 goals for the club to overtake Cesar Rodriguez, who had a prolific spell for Barcelona in the 1940s and '50s and died in 1995 at the age of 74, as the club's all-time leading scorer.

It also turned him into the top scorer in the Spanish league with 34 goals, two more than Real Madrid's Portuguese striker Cristiano Ronaldo.

Messi equally won plaudits back home, with the daily Cronica en Une superimposing a photograph of the player over a screen grab from the Steven Spielberg film "E.T.", as if to emphasise his otherworldly qualities.

The newspaper wondered what Messi now needed to do to surpass the achievements of Argentina's other footballing hero, Diego Maradona.

The sports newspaper Ole also indicated that Messi was now among the pantheon of footballing greats, headlining its coverage: "Pele, Be Afraid."

Barcelona's win moved the defending champions to within five points of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga, largely thanks to Messi's efforts.

Messi, who made his debut for the first team in October 2004, has scored 153 goals in the Liga, 49 in the Champions League, 19 in the Copa del Rey, eight in the Spanish Super Cup, one in the European Super Cup and four in the Club World Cup.



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## NBA: Heat beats Suns for 14th home win in a row



Chris Bosh #1 of the Miami Heat dunks against the Phoenix Suns.

MIAMI (AFP) - Chris Bosh scored 29 points and LeBron James added 20 to spark the Miami Heat to a 14th consecutive NBA home triumph, a 99-95 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday.

Dwyane Wade added 19

points and Udonis Haslem came off the bench to contribute 15 points and a team-high nine rebounds for Miami.

The Heat improved to 34-11, stretching their Southeast division lead over Orlando to six games and remaining seconds overall in the Eastern Conference.

Miami went 13-of-16 from the free throw line in the fourth quarter, but trailed 90-80 before ending the game on a 19-5 run to secure the victory.

Miami has not lost at home in two months but the Suns, led by 19 points from Grant Hill, had won 11 of the past 14 games and tested the Heat into the final minutes.

The Suns fell to 23-23, 10th in the Western Conference, and saw a four-game win streak snapped.

Meanwhile The Miami Heat are expected to add the size they have been looking for by signing veteran Ronny Turiaf, his agent said.



file photo- Ronny Turiaf

Turiaf is expected to clear waivers and could be in uniform by Friday, when the Heat play at Detroit, if the contract details can be ironed out.

The Heat have been attempting to add another big man for several months as they look to bolster their interior depth for the playoffs. The team recently has been struggling against bigger opponents.

Turiaf averaged 4.2 points and 3.2 rebounds in 64 games for the New York Knicks last year.

## Tyson to debut show in Vegas, eyes Broadway



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Boxing legend Mike Tyson will debut a one-man show in Las Vegas next month, and could take it to Broadway and London's West End, according to the show's co-writer.

The former heavyweight world champion, infamous for ear-biting and a rape conviction before mounting a show-biz-tinged comeback in recent years, will play six nights in Vegas April 13-18.

The 45-year-old is already in rehearsal for "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth, Live on Stage," to be staged at the Hollywood Theatre of the Nevada gambling city's MGM Grand casino complex.

He admits to not being entirely sure yet what he will say about his life, which has in-

cluded a prison term on a rape conviction, three stints in rehab, two failed marriages and the death of a child.

"I know what you are probably thinking. 'What the hell is he going to do?' To be honest, I wonder, too," he told the USA Today newspaper.

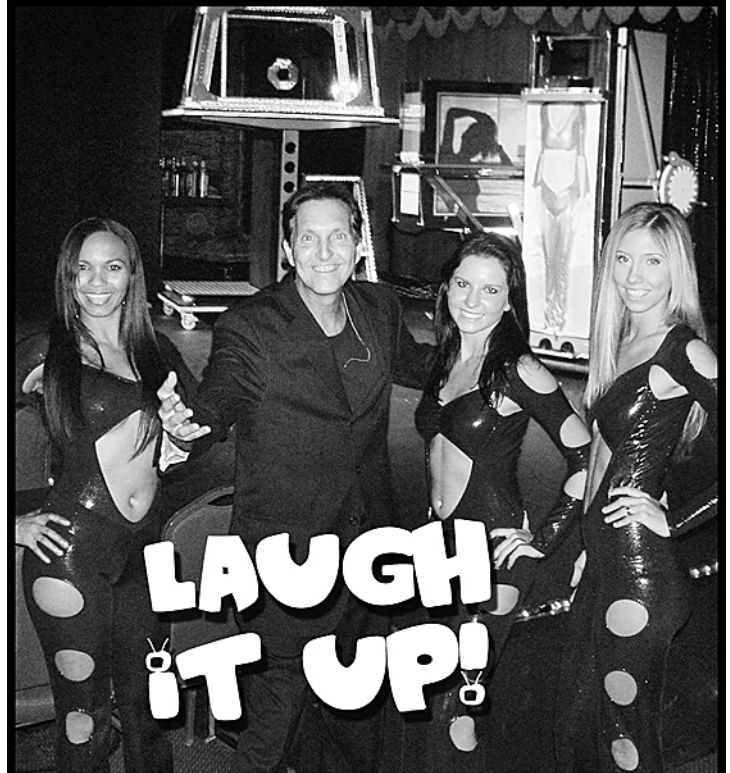
"Life is great. I can't complain. I have come full circle. As you may remember, I am the guy who used to knock out (expletive) in 30 seconds. I want to tell my story so you can get a better understanding of me."

The show is co-written by Tyson's wife Kiki and Hollywood playwright/director Randy Johnson -- who claims he could take it worldwide.

Tyson reclaimed the heavyweight throne but lost to Evander Holyfield in 1996 and in a 1997 rematch infamously bit Holyfield's ears twice, serving a year's banishment in exile for the move.

The boxer filed for bankruptcy in 2003. But he has revived his career in recent years, appearing in "The Hangover" films and in reality television shows exploring his love of training birds.

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## Saints coach banned .... continued from page 16

Goodell said: "When there is targeting of players for injury and cash rewards over a three-year period, the involvement of the coaching staff, and three years of denials and willful disrespect of the rules, a strong and lasting message must be sent that such conduct is totally unacceptable and has no place in the game."

Goodell also demanded all NFL owners and head coaches provide a written guarantee by March 30 that they have ensured that no bounty programs are in place on their clubs.

The Saints bounty system

reached its peak in the 2009 season that led to the club's victory over Indianapolis in the 2010 Super Bowl.

The scheme paid \$1,500 for a knockout blow that sidelines a rival the remainder of a game and \$1,000 for a "cart-off" hit in which a rival is helped off the field. Payments doubled and tripled for playoff games.

A statement from the league said there was no evidence Benson had any knowledge of the program or that club funds were used in the bounty scheme.

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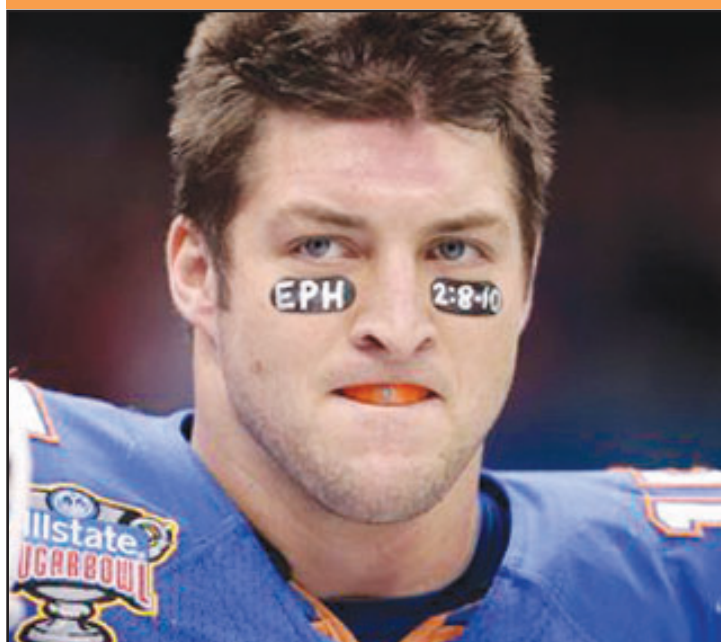
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## Broncos deal Tebow to Jets



NEW YORK (AFP) - Tim Tebow, the quarterback phenomenon who led the Denver Broncos on an unlikely run to the NFL playoffs last season, was traded to the New York Jets on Wednesday.

One day after signing superstar quarterback Peyton Manning to a five-year contract, the Denver Broncos parted ways with the instigator of "Tebowmania", who attracted the attention of American football fans by reviving the Broncos.

Denver was mired in a 1-4 slump to open the season when the Broncos turned to Tebow as their starter seven games into the season. Tebow went 7-4 and took the team into the playoffs for the first time in six seasons.

But Tebow was not done. He sparked Denver to a 29-23 over-time upset of the Pittsburgh Steelers in the first round before the clock struck midnight on his fairy-tale story, the New England Patriots ousting Denver 45-10 in round two.

The Jets, who sent Denver fourth-round and sixth-round 2012 NFL Draft picks to obtain Tebow and a seventh-round pick, had a front-row view of "Tebowmania" in a 17-13 loss last November during his remarkable turnaround

of the Broncos.

Tebow marched the Broncos 95 yards in 12 plays in the final minutes against the Jets and scored on a 20-yard touchdown run with 58 seconds remaining to provide the winning points.

While Tebow completed only 46.5 percent of his passes last season, he kept finding ways to win and inspiring top efforts from teammates even while he was statistically among the poorest quarterbacks in the NFL.

Among his reversals was rallying the Broncos from a 15-0 deficit to an 18-15 over-time victory against Miami.

The major question now is how Tebow will fit into the Jets, who already have a beloved quarterback in Mark Sanchez. Having both signal callers is almost certain to create a quarterback controversy in media-mad New York once starter Sanchez struggles for the first time next season.

"We don't need Tebow," Jets cornerback Antonio Cromartie said in a message on his Twitter account before the deal was completed.

Tebow, who has a base salary of \$1.1 million, arrives just two weeks after Sanchez signed a three-year contract extension with the Jets worth \$40.5 million.

## NFL: Saints coach Payton banned for season for bounty scheme

NEW YORK (AFP) - New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton will be suspended for the entire 2012 NFL season as part of the punishments handed down on Wednesday by the league for the Saints' three-year bounty scheme.

Former Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, the instigator of the pay-for-injury program that ran from 2009 through 2011 who now serves as defensive coordinator for the St. Louis Rams, was suspended indefinitely.

His first chance for reinstatement will not come until after the 2012 season in the aftermath of the harshest penalties ever imposed on an NFL club.

Saints general manager Mickey Loomis was banned for the first eight games, or half-season, of the 2012 campaign while Saints assistant head coach Joe Vitt was suspended for the first six games of the 2012 season.

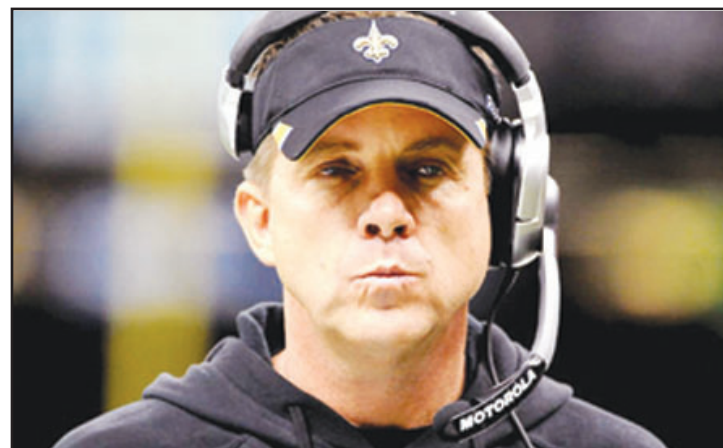
"We are all accountable and responsible for player health and safety and the integrity of the game," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said.

"We will not tolerate conduct or a culture that undermines those priorities. No one is above the game or the rules that govern it. Respect for the game and the people who participate in it will not be compromised."

More punishments could come as the league said in a statement that the role of individual players remains under investigation.

"I am profoundly troubled by the fact that players - including leaders among the defensive players - embraced this program so enthusiastically and participated with what appears to have been a deliberate lack of concern for the well-being of their fellow players," Goodell said.

An NFL probe uncovered the bounty program, which was revealed earlier this



month, finding between 22 and 27 Saints players took thousands of dollars in payoffs for delivering hits that forced opposing players out of games.

The NFL said on Wednesday that in addition to known bounty targets Brett Favre and Kurt Warner, the Saints had targeted at least two other opposing quarterbacks, Cam Newton of Carolina and Aaron Rodgers of Green Bay.

Williams confessed to running the bounty program and apologized for what he called a "terrible mistake" while Payton and Loomis apologized in a statement and took responsibility for not shutting down the program when told about it.

"We acknowledge that the violations disclosed by the NFL during their investigation of our club happened under our watch. We take full responsibility," Payton and

Loomis said in their statement.

Those suspended will not be paid, a run that in Payton's case will begin on April 1 and last through next March.

In addition, the Saints were fined \$500,000 and stripped of second-round picks in the 2012 and 2013 NFL Drafts.

That adds to the woes for Saints owner Tom Benson, who must quickly decide who will make personnel moves until Loomis returns and who will coach the Saints in the upcoming season.

Williams will have his status reviewed by Goodell for possible reinstatement after the 2012 season. The NFL said Williams helped fund the payout pool for bounty bonuses in addition to originating the scheme and that he and Vitt "misled" league attempts to investigate the program.

*continues on page 15*

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